Decline in foreign aid for agricultural development

†1972. SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that share of foreign aid given for agricultural development has declined rapidly;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering to take any steps to increase the same; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Assessment of production *viz-a-viz* use of fertilizers

†1973. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an assessment has been made of the fertilizers used in farming and the quantum of production achieved with the use of fertilizers;

(b) whether the production of crops is in proportion to the use of fertilizers; and

(c) if not, the reasons of low production of crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The foodgrains production of 216.13 million tonnes during 2006-07 is the highest so far.

(b) and (c) The production of foodgrains is not entirely dependent on the use of fertilizers. Inadequate and imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers including greater mining of soil nutrients; neglect of organic manures and secondary and micro-nutrients; use of good quality seeds; irrigation facilities; unfavourable weather conditions and farm management practices, etc. also impact foodgrains production.

Unfair means of promotion of medicines

1974. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pharmaceutical companies are in the habit of spending huge sums of money annually for establishing and maintaining a relationship with doctors to increase the sale of their drugs while pitching high price for their products and pushing them into the market by influencing or goading the medical practitioners to prescribe those expensive medicines at the expense of patients;

(b) if so, what are the measures taken to curb this unhealthy practice; and

(c) whether there would be a serious initiative to facilitate production of quality drugs at comparatively low prices or reasonable prices in contrast to present trend of going up steeply?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.